

Letter to Artist

You are hereby commissioned to execute for this Department an oil portrait of Secretary Benson with a suitable frame for hanging in the Department of Agriculture with the portraits of the former secretaries of Agriculture. The dimensions of the portrait are to be approximately 36x48, including a suitable frame approximately 4 1/2", which must conform to the general style and structure of those which are now hung in the Department. Upon delivery of the portrait and acceptance by the Department, payment will be made to you in the sum of \$2,150.

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Original  
sent to T. Batten & Son  
11/5/57

Exigency Statement

Commission to execute an oil portrait of Secretary Ezra Benson to be hung on the walls of the Department of Agriculture in continuance of a series of official portraits of former secretaries of Agriculture was in accordance with Mr. Benson's selection of a competent artist. Any action to conform to the requirements for securing competitive bids was in consequence impractical. Although the price of \$2,150, charged for executing, exceeds the amount considered in former years, it is considered justified and reasonable and appears to be in line with that paid by other Government agencies for portraits of their secretaries.

*Aug 1st 1961  
sent to H. [unclear]  
11/5/61.*